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1962/10/23

244
INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

133

47-48

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Control: 17520

Action

Rec'd: October 24, 1962

3:01 a.m.

SS

Info

FROM: Guatemala City

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TO: Secretary of State

SP

ARA

NO: 237, October 23, 7 p.m.

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PRIORITY

Reference: Embassy telegram 234

Following is informal translation reply from President Ydigoras to President Kennedy's October 22 letter.

QUOTE

Mr. President:

1. I received yesterday from Ambassador Bell your important Top Secret letter of 22nd instant informing me of what I have been hoping for two years would happen: That Government US would understand tremendous danger for American continent of Communist, de facto government of Fidel Castro.

2. At first it was thought my Government's appeals for help for defense against Castro were exaggerated. The continuing threat obliged us break diplomatic and commercial relations with aforementioned government early 1960.

3. I am gratified US President is cognizant of situation prevailing in Cuba, which is genuine threat no longer so much for the peoples of Latin America as for US itself, which has been strategically surprised from the south while maintaining vigilance northward with "DEW defensive line."

4. For more than year my Government has held that problem of Cuba is not only one for UN or OAS but one to be resolved

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

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-2- 237, October 23, 7 p.m., from Guatemala City

by Inter-American Defense Board.

5. I appreciate that US truly free and democratic country, needs always to have support public opinion, reflected in press, and particularly of Congress, in order take grave and firm decision. This procedure, the only one to follow in democratic countries, facilitates in its way development secret conspiracies of totalitarian countries, causing the democratic countries later to spend enormous amounts blood and money to combat and defeat them.

6. My Government is disposed support US both in UN and organ consultation OAS.

7. Rio Pact is sacred to Guatemalans and GOG disposed comply with corresponding international obligations, and particularly to maintain public order within the country where for three and one-half years we have suffered from ever increasing Castro-Communist indoctrination and infiltration among some sectors of population.

8. My Government hopes world peace can be preserved and that measures Your Excellency is taking with Khrushchev to face these serious matters will succeed, even though with this class of atheist and totalitarian gentlemen "the best reason is the sword" or at least to threaten them openly with it.

Sincerely yours,

Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes

President of Guatemala

UNQUOTE

Original letter being pouched.
Advance copies to S/SO

BELL

LM

Note: Pass White House, 10/24/62

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